ORDER OF GREAT COMPLINE

without a priest

FOR THE EVE OF THE NATIVITY, THEOPHANY, AND ANNUNCIATION

If several people pray the service together, one person is appointed leader (usually the senior member of the household), and another (or several persons) appointed reader. The service may be sung or chanted simply, according to the ability of those present. The service may also be taken by one person alone.

At approximately 8 o'clock in the evening, after having eaten supper, we come and stand before the holy icons. Having lit a candle or lamp before the holy icons, the appointed leader begins, making the sign of the cross three times with bows saying:

God, be merciful to me a sinner.
God, cleanse me of my sins and have mercy on me.
I have sinned beyond number, forgive me O Lord!

Leader: Through the prayers of the holy Fathers, O Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen. Glory be to You, our God, glory be to You!

Together:

Heavenly King, Advocate, Spirit of Truth, Who are everywhere present and fill all things, Treasury of Blessings, Bestower of Life, come and dwell within us; cleanse us of all that defiles us, and, O Good One, save our souls.

we continue the trisagion together, or one reader alone:

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us. *(Thrice)*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, * now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Trinity most holy, have mercy on us. Cleanse us of our sins, O Lord; pardon our transgressions, O Master; look upon our weaknesses and heal them, O Holy One; for the sake of Your name.

Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, * now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Leader: Through the prayers of the holy Fathers, O Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

Reader: Amen. Lord have mercy *(thrice)*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Come, let us bow in worship before the King, our God. *(bow)*

Come, let us bow in worship before Christ, the King, our God. *(bow)*

Come, let us bow in worship and fall down before the very Lord, Jesus Christ* our King and God. *(bow)*

the reader chants the psalms:

Psalm 4

When I called you heard me, God of my justice, when I was in trouble you set me at large; have pity on me and hear my prayer. Sons of men, how long will you be heavy-hearted? Why do you love vanity and seek lying? Know too that the Lord has made his Holy One wonderful. The Lord will hear me when I cry to him. Be angry, and do not sin; for what you say in your hearts, feel compunction on your beds. Sacrifice a sacrifice of justice and hope in the Lord. Many say, ‘Who will show us good things?’ The light of your countenance has been marked upon us, O Lord. You have given joy to my heart, from the fruit of their corn, wine and oil they have been filled. I shall lie down in

peace and sleep at once; because you, Lord, alone have made me dwell in hope.

Psalm 6

Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger, nor chastise me in your wrath. Have mercy on me, Lord, for I am weak; heal me for my bones have been troubled, and my soul exceedingly troubled; but you, Lord, how long? Turn back, O Lord, deliver my soul; save me for your mercy's sake. For in death no one remembers you; and in Hell who will confess you? I have toiled in my groaning, every night I shall wash my bed and drench my couch with my tears. My eye has been troubled through anger, I have grown old among all my foes. Depart from me all you who work iniquity, for the Lord has heard the voice of my weeping. The Lord has heard my supplication, the Lord has accepted my prayer. Let all my enemies be ashamed and greatly troubled, let them be turned back and speedily be utterly ashamed.

Psalm 12

How long, O Lord, will you finally forget me? How long will you turn your face from me? How long shall I lay plans in my soul, griefs in my heart day and night? How long will my foe be exalted against me?

Look on me, hear me, Lord my God. Enlighten my eyes lest I sleep in death. Let my enemy never say, 'I have prevailed against him'. Those who trouble me will rejoice if I slip. But I have hoped in your mercy. My heart will be glad in your salvation; I shall sing to the Lord my benefactor and chant to the name of the Lord most high.

And again:

Look on me, hear me, O Lord my God. Enlighten my eyes lest I sleep in death. Let my enemy never say, 'I have prevailed against him'.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory be to You, O God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory be to You, O God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory be to You, O God.
Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Psalm 24

To you, O Lord, I have lifted up my soul. My God, I have trusted in you, do not let me be shamed for ever. Do not let my foes laugh at me; for all who wait

patiently for you will not be shamed; let those who transgress without cause be shamed. O Lord, let me know your ways, and teach me your paths. Guide me into your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and I have waited patiently on you all the day. Remember your pity, Lord, and your mercies, for they are eternal. Do not remember the sins and follies of my youth, according to your mercy remember me, on account of your goodness, O Lord. The Lord is good and upright, therefore he will give laws to those who sin in the way. He will guide the meek with judgement, he will teach the meek his ways. All the Lord's ways are mercy and truth, for those who seek his covenant and his testimonies. For your name's sake, O Lord, be merciful to my sin, for it is great. Who is a man who fears the Lord? He will give him laws in the way which he has chosen. His soul will dwell among good things and his seed will inherit the earth. The Lord is the strength of those who fear him, and his covenant will show them this. My eyes are ever toward the Lord, for he will draw my feet out of the snare. Look on me and have mercy on me; for I am alone and poor. The afflictions of my heart have been multiplied; bring me out of my troubles. See my humiliation and my toil, and forgive all my sins. See my foes, for they have been

multiplied, and have hated me with an unjust hatred. Guard my soul and deliver me; let me not be shamed, for I have hoped in you. The innocent and upright have joined themselves to me, because I have waited patiently for you, O Lord. O God, redeem Israel from all his afflictions.

Psalm 30

In you, O Lord, I have hoped, let me not be put to shame for ever, in your justice deliver me, and rescue me. Incline your ear to me, make haste to rescue me. Be for me a God who is my defender, and a place of refuge to save me. For you are my strength and my refuge, and for your name's sake you will guide me and nourish me. You will bring me out of this snare which they have hidden for me, for you are my defender, O Lord. Into your hands I will entrust my spirit. You have redeemed me, Lord God of truth. You have hated those who preserve vanities to no purpose. But I have hoped in the Lord. I will rejoice and be glad in your mercy. For you have seen my humiliation, saved my soul from constraints. You have not shut me into the hands of enemies; you have set my feet on a broad place. Have mercy on me, Lord, for I am afflicted; my eye is troubled with anger, my soul and my belly. For my life

is spent with grief, and my years with groanings. My strength has grown weak through poverty, and my bones have been troubled. I have become a reproach to all my foes, and even more so to my neighbours; an object of fear to my acquaintances. Those who saw me fled from me. I have been forgotten from the heart like a corpse. I have become like a broken vessel, for I have heard the mockery of many who dwell round about. When they gathered together against me, they laid plans to take my soul. But I have hoped in you, O Lord; you are my God; my lot is in your hands. Deliver me from the hands of my foes, and from those who persecute me. Make your face shine on your servant, save me in your mercy. O Lord, may I not be put to shame, for I have called upon you. Let the impious be put to shame; let them be brought down to Hell. Let the deceitful lips be speechless, which speak iniquity against the just, with arrogance and contempt. How great is the multitude of your goodness, O Lord, which you have hidden for those who fear you; which you have wrought for those who hope in you, in the sight of the children of men. You will hide them in the secrecy of your countenance, from the tumult of men. You will shelter them in a tabernacle from the contradiction of tongues. Blessed is the Lord, for he has made his mercy

in a fortified city. But I said in my ecstasy, ‘I am cast away from the presence of your eyes’. Therefore you have heard the voice of my prayer, when I called to you. Love the Lord all you his saints, for the Lord seeks truth, and will repay those who act with arrogance. Take courage, and let your heart be strong, all you who hope in the Lord.

Psalm 90

He who dwells in the help of the Most High will live under the protection of the of the God of heaven; will say to the Lord, ‘You are my protector and my refuge, my God, and I shall hope in him’. For he will deliver you from the snare of hunters, and from the word which troubles. He will overshadow you with his wings, and beneath his feathers you will hope; his truth will encircle you with a shield. You will not be afraid of terror by night, of the arrow that flies by day. Of the thing that prowls in the darkness, of mishap and the noonday devil. A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right, but it will not come near you. But with your eyes you will observe, and see the reward of sinners. For you, Lord, are my hope, you have made the Most High your refuge. Evils will not approach you, nor a scourge draw near your dwelling.

Because he has given orders to his Angels about you, to guard you in all your ways. They will bear you on their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone. You will walk on asp and basilisk, and trample down lion and dragon. 'Because he hoped in me, I shall deliver him; I shall shelter him, because he knew my name. He will cry to me, and I shall hear him, I am with him in trouble; I shall rescue him and glorify him. I shall fill him with length of days, and show him my salvation'.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory be to You, O God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory be to You, O God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory be to You, O God.



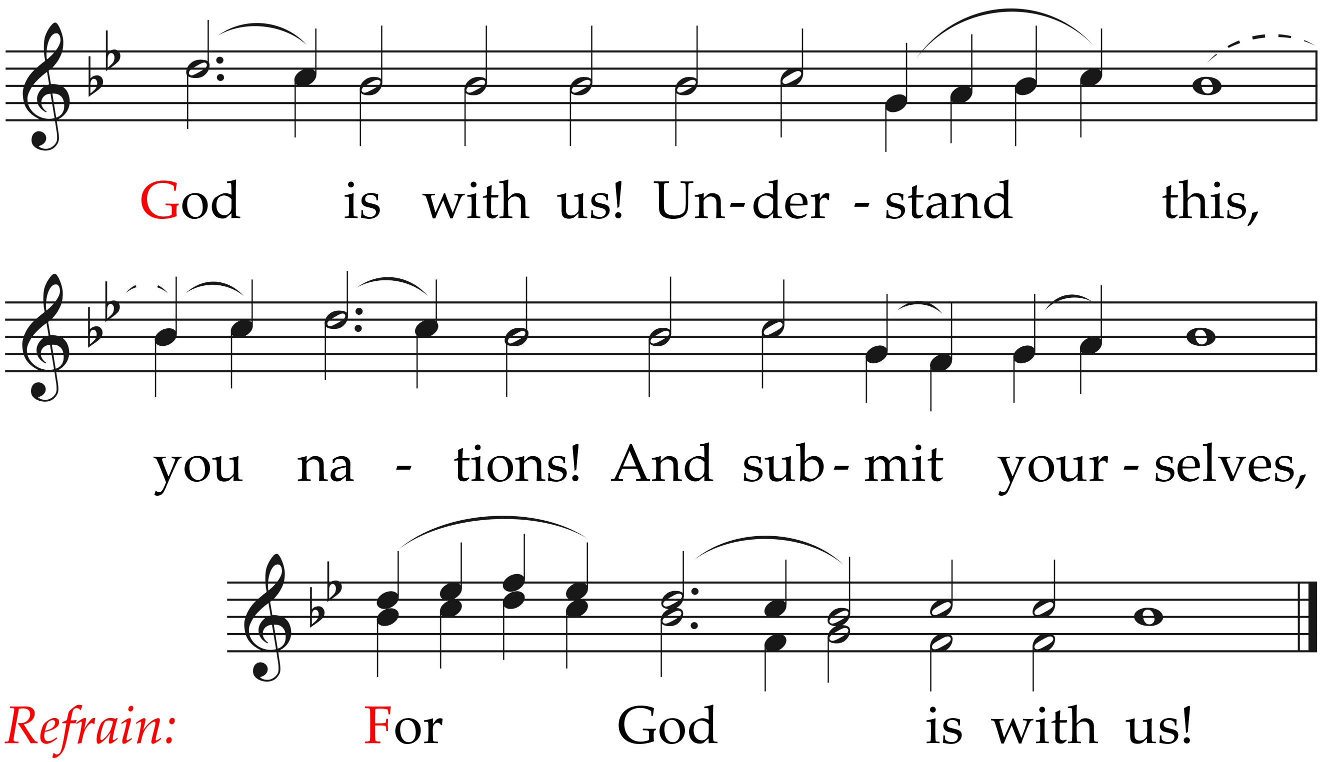
GOD IS WITH US

Isaiah 8

Chant from the collection of the Solovetsky Monastery

Leader: God is with us! Understand this, you nations! And submit yourselves, for God is with us!

we repeat, singing sweetly and slowly with uplifted voices:



the leader chants the verses and we sing the refrain:

To the ends of the earth give ear.

FOR GOD IS WITH US.

Submit, you mighty ones.

FOR GOD IS WITH US.

If again you become strong, you will also submit again. FOR GOD IS WITH US.

And whatever you plan, the Lord will scatter it.
FOR GOD IS WITH US.

And whatever word you speak, it will not remain among you. FOR GOD IS WITH US.

Fear of you we shall not fear, nor shall we be troubled. FOR GOD IS WITH US.

The Lord our God, let us sanctify him, and he will be our fear. FOR GOD IS WITH US.

And if I should trust in him, he will be sanctification for me. FOR GOD IS WITH US.

And I will trust in him, and I will be saved through him. FOR GOD IS WITH US.

Here am I and the children whom God has given me. FOR GOD IS WITH US.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. FOR GOD IS WITH US.

We who dwell in the land and the shadow of death, a light will shine on us. FOR GOD IS WITH US.

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.
FOR GOD IS WITH US.

Whose government was upon his shoulder.
FOR GOD IS WITH US.

And of his peace there is no bound.
FOR GOD IS WITH US.

And his name shall be called, Angel of great counsel. FOR GOD IS WITH US.

Wonderful Counsellor.

FOR GOD IS WITH US.

Mighty God, Ruler, Prince of peace.

FOR GOD IS WITH US.

Father of the age to come.

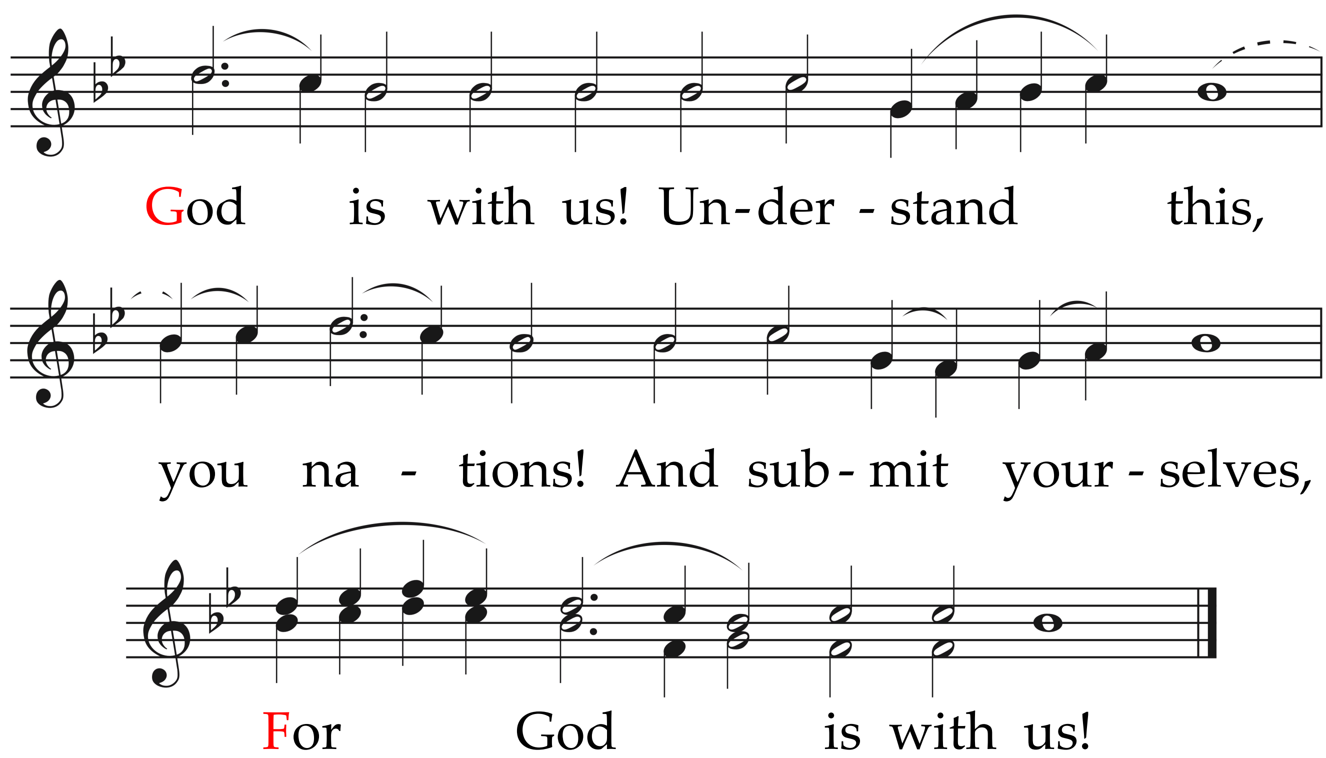
FOR GOD IS WITH US.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; FOR GOD IS WITH US.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

FOR GOD IS WITH US.

then we sing the entire first verse once more together:



Then, these troparia sung antiphonally:

The day is done. * I give You thanks, O Lord, and I implore You: * grant me an evening and night without sin, O Saviour, * and save me.

Reader: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

The day is done. * I give You glory, O Master, and I implore You: * grant me an evening and night without temptation, O Saviour, * and save me.

Reader: Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

The day is done. * I sing Your praise, O Holy One, and I implore You: * grant me an evening and night without guile, O Saviour, * and save me.

Then, these stichera in tone 6 samohlas:

The bodiless Cherubim glorify You with never-ending songs. * The six-winged Seraphim exalt You with ceaseless voices. * All the hosts of Angels honor You with the thrice-holy hymn. * For You, O Father, are from all eternity, * with Your co-eternal Son, * and with the Spirit of life, Who is equal to You; * You have revealed the unity of the Trinity.

in the same tone:

All-holy Virgin Mother of God, * you witnesses and servants of the Logos, * all you choirs of Prophets and Martyrs, * now that you have immortal life, * fervently pray for all men;* for we are all in danger * Pray that, delivered from the lies of the evil one, * we, too, may sing the angels' hymn: * "Holy, holy, holy are You, thrice-holy Lord! * Pity and save us. Amen.

Then one reader chants the Symbol of Faith:

I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen. I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father. Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit He was born of the Virgin Mary and became man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered, died and was buried. On the third day He rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end. I believe in the

Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The leader chants the following verses, the people repeat:*

All-holy Lady, Mother of God: Pray to God for us sinners!

All you heavenly Powers, Holy Angels and Archangels: Pray to God for us sinners!

Holy John, Prophet and Forerunner, and Baptizer of our Lord, Jesus Christ: Pray to God for us sinners!

You holy and glorious Apostles, you Prophets and martyrs, and all the Saints: Pray to God for us sinners!

Our venerable and God-bearing Fathers, pastors and teachers of the whole world: Pray to God for us sinners!

O invincible and incomprehensible and divine power of the honourable and life-giving Cross: Do not forsake us sinners!

O God, be merciful to us sinners!

O God, wash away our sins and have mercy on us!

** If the service is taken by one person alone, the repetitions may be eliminated.*

A reader chants the extended trisagion (on page 3).

WE SING THE TROPARION OF THE FEAST

Then the reader continues:

Lord, have mercy *(40 times)*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen .

More honorable, than the cherubim, and by far more glorious than the seraphim. ever a virgin, you gave birth to God the Word, O true Mother of God, we magnify you. *(bow)*

Leader: Through the prayers of the holy Fathers, O Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

Prayer of Saint Basil the Great:

Lord, Lord, who deliver us from the arrow that flies by day, deliver us also from every deed that walks in darkness. Accept the lifting up of our hands as an evening sacrifice. Grant that we may also pass through the stadium of night without blame, untried by evils, and deliver us from every trouble and from the fear that comes to us from the devil. Grant our souls compunction, our thoughts care concerning the

examination in your dread and just judgement. Nail down our flesh from fear of you, and deaden our members upon earth, that in the calm of sleep, we may be made bright in the contemplation of your judgements. Take from us every unseemly imagination and harmful desire. Raise us up at the hour of prayer, strengthened in the faith and advancing in your commandments; through the good-pleasure and goodness of your only-begotten Son, with whom you are blessed, together with your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and always and to the ages of ages. Amen.

the reader continues:

Come, let us bow in worship before the King, our God. *(bow)*

Come, let us bow in worship before Christ, the King, our God. *(bow)*

Come, let us bow in worship and fall down before the very Lord, Jesus Christ* our King and God. *(bow)*

Psalm 50

Have mercy on me O God, in your great mercy. In accordance with the multitude of your compassion blot out my offence. Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my wickedness, and my sin is ever before me. Against you only I have sinned and done what is evil in your sight, that you may be justified in your words, and win when you are judged. For see, in wickedness I was conceived, and in sin my mother bore me. For see, you have loved truth: you have shown me the hidden and secret things of your wisdom. You will sprinkle me with hyssop and I shall be cleansed; you will wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. You will make me hear of joy and gladness; the bones which have been humbled will rejoice. Turn away your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create a clean heart in me, O God, and renew a right Spirit within me. Do not cast me out from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me. Give me back the joy of your salvation, and establish me with a sovereign Spirit. I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn to you again. O God, the God of my salvation, deliver me from bloodshed, and my tongue will rejoice at your justice. Lord, you will open my lips: and my

mouth will declare your praise. For if you had wanted a sacrifice, I would have given it; you will not take pleasure in burnt offerings. A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit; a broken and a humbled heart God will not despise. Do good to Sion, Lord, in your good pleasure; and let the walls of Jerusalem be rebuilt. Then you will be well pleased with a sacrifice of justice, oblation and whole burnt offerings. Then they will offer calves upon your altar.

Psalm 101

Lord hear my prayer, and let my cry come to you. Do not turn your face from me In the day I am in tribulation incline your ear to me. In the day I call upon you, be swift to hear me. For my days have vanished like smoke, and my bones have been burnt up like brushwood. I have been smitten like grass, and my heart has been dried up, so that I have forgotten to eat my bread. My bones have stuck to my flesh, from the sound of my groaning. I have become like a desert pelican; like an owl on a building. I have kept vigil, and become like a sparrow, alone upon a house-top. All day my enemies have reviled me, and those that praised me have sworn an oath against me. I have eaten ashes as my bread, and mixed my drink with weeping. From the

presence of your wrath and your anger, for having lifted me up you have cast me down. My days have declined like a shadow, and I have been dried up like grass. But you, Lord, abide for ever, and your memorial to generation and generation. You will arise and take pity on Sion, for it is time to take pity on her, for the time has come. For your servants have been well-pleased with her stones and they will take pity on her dust. And the nations will fear your name, Lord, and all the kings of the earth your glory. For the Lord will build up Sion, and appear in his glory. He has looked on the prayer of the humble, and has not despised their supplication. Let this be written for another generation, and a people that is being created will praise the Lord. For the Lord has leaned down from his holy height, he has looked from heaven upon the earth. To hear the groaning of those in fetters, to free the children of the slain. To announce the name of the Lord in Sion, and his praise in Jerusalem. When peoples are gathered together, and kings to serve the Lord. He answered him in the way of his strength. Tell me the fewness of my days. Do not lead me away half way through my days. Your years are for generations of generations. At the beginning it was you, Lord, who laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the works of your hands.

They will be perish, but you endure; they will all grow old as a garment. And you will roll them up like a cloak, and they will be changed; but you are the same, and your years will not fail. Your servants' children will have their dwelling: and their seed will be guided for ever.

Prayer of Manasses, King of Judea.

Lord Almighty, the God of our Fathers, of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and of their just seed; who made the heaven and the earth with all their array; who shackled the sea by the word of your command; who shut up the deep and sealed it with your dread and glorious name; before whom all things shudder and tremble in the presence of your power; for the majesty of your glory cannot be borne, and the wrath of threat to sinners is irresistible, and the mercy of your promise is measureless and unsearchable. For you are the Lord most high, compassionate, long-suffering and full of mercy, and you repent over the evils of mankind. You, Lord, according to the multitude of your goodness, have appointed repentance and forgiveness to those who have sinned against you, and in the multitude of your pities, you have decreed repentance unto salvation for sinners. You therefore, Lord God of Powers, did not

appoint repentance for the just, for Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who did not sin against you, but you have appointed repentance for me a sinner, because I have sinned above number of the sand of the sea. My iniquities have been multiplied, Lord, my iniquities have been multiplied, and I am not worthy to raise my eyes, and to see the height of heaven, because of the multitude of my unjust deeds. I am bowed down by a heavy iron fetter, so that I cannot lift my head and there is no respite for me; because I have provoked your wrath and done what is evil in your sight, not doing your will nor keeping your commands. And now I bow the knee of my heart, praying for the goodness which is from you: I have sinned, Lord, I have sinned, and I recognise my iniquities; but I ask with supplication: Forgive me, Lord, forgive me, and do not destroy me with my iniquities, do not be wrath for ever, do not lay up evils for me, nor condemn me to the lowest parts of the earth: for you are God, the God of the penitent, and in me you will show all your goodness; for you will save me who am unworthy according to your great mercy, and I will praise you continually all the days of my life. For all the power of heaven praises you, and yours is the glory to the ages of ages. Amen.

A reader chants the extended trisagion (on page 3).

WE SING THE KONDAKION OF THE FEAST

Then the reader continues:
Lord, have mercy *(40 times)*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen .

More honorable, than the cherubim, and by far more glorious than the seraphim. ever a virgin, you gave birth to God the Word, O true Mother of God, we magnify you. *(bow)*

Leader: Through the prayers of the holy Fathers, O Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

A Prayer of Saint Mardarios:

God and Master, Father almighty, Lord, only begotten Son, Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit, one godhead, one power, have mercy on me a sinner; and by the judgements which you know, save me your unworthy servant; for you are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen.

the reader continues:

Come, let us bow in worship before the King, our God. *(bow)*

Come, let us bow in worship before Christ, the King, our God. *(bow)*

Come, let us bow in worship and fall down before the very Lord, Jesus Christ* our King and God. *(bow)*

Psalm 69

O God, come to my help; Lord, hasten to help me. Let those who seek my soul be shamed and confounded. Let those who wish me evil be turned back and put to shame. Let those who say to me, 'Fine, fine!' be turned back immediately, ashamed. Let all who seek you, O God, be glad and rejoice in you. Let all who love your salvation ever say, 'The Lord be magnified.' But I am poor and needy; help me, O God. You are my helper and my deliverer; Lord, do not delay.

Psalm 142

Lord, hear my prayer; in your truth give ear to my supplication, and in your justice hear me. Do not enter into judgement with your servant, for in your sight no one living can be justified. For the enemy

pursued my soul; humbled my life to the ground; made me dwell in darkness, like those for ever dead. My spirit in me grew weary, and my heart was troubled within me. I remembered days of old; I meditated on all your works. I made the works of your hands my meditation. I stretched out my hands towards you; my soul thirsted for you like a waterless land. Hear me swiftly, O Lord; my spirit has failed. Do not turn your face from me, or I shall be like those who go down to the Pit. Make me hear of your mercy in the morning, for I have hoped in you. Make known to me the way in which I should walk, for to you I have lifted up my soul. Deliver me from my enemies, Lord; I have run to you for shelter. Teach me to do your will, for you are my God. Your good Spirit will guide me in an upright land. For your name's sake, O Lord, you will give me life. In your justice you will bring my soul out of trouble; in your mercy slay my enemies, and destroy all those who afflict my soul, for I am your servant.

The Doxology:

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill among men. We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory. Lord, King, God of heaven,

Father almighty: Lord, only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit. Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, who take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world. Receive our prayer, you who sit on the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us. For you alone are holy, you alone are Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every evening I will bless you, and praise your name for ever and to the ages of ages. Lord, you have been our refuge from generation to generation. I said, Lord, have mercy on me, heal my soul, for I have sinned against you. Lord, I have run to you for refuge; teach me to do your will for you are my God. For with you is the source of life, and in your light we shall see light. Continue your mercy toward those who know you.

Grant, Lord, this night to keep us without sin. Blessed are you, Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is your name for ever more. Amen. May your mercy, Lord, be upon us, as we have trusted in you. Blessed are you, Lord, teach me your statutes. Blessed are you, Master, make me understand your statutes. Blessed are you, Holy One, enlighten me with your statutes. Lord, your mercy is for ever. Do not

scorn the work of your hands. To you praise is due, to you song is due, to you glory is due, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

WE SING THE APOSTICHA OF THE FEAST

from the Menaion

✠

SONG OF SIMEON

sung together in tone 5 or chanted simply by the reader

Now, O Master, You have kept Your promise, let Your servant go in peace. With my own eyes I have seen the salvation, which You have prepared in the sight of every people. A light to reveal You to the gentiles, and the glory of Your people, Israel.

A reader chants the extended trisagion (on page 3).

WE SING THE TROPARION OF THE FEAST

then we sing, or chant simply:

Blessed be the name of the Lord now and for ever.
Blessed be the name of the Lord now and for ever.
Blessed be the name of the Lord now and for ever.

PSALM 33

We sing together, or the reader may read simply

I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall boast in the Lord: the humble shall hear and be glad. Magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together. I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my distress. Come to him and be enlightened, and your faces shall not be ashamed. This poor man This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his distress. The angel of the Lord shall encamp around those who fear Him, and will deliver them. Taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man that trusts in Him. Fear the Lord, all you His saints, for nothing is lacking to those who fear Him. The rich grow poor and go hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing!

Come, O children, hear me : I shall teach you the fear of the Lord. Who is the Man who desires life, who loves to see good days? Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit. Turn away from evil, and do good ; seek peace, and pursue it; The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are open to their supplication. The Face of the Lord is upon the evildoers, to destroy the remembrance of them from the earth. The

righteous cried out, and the Lord heard them; and He rescued them from all their afflictions. The Lord is near to those of a contrite heart, and those who are humbled in spirit will He save. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, and from them all will the Lord rescue them. The Lord watches over all their bones: not one of them shall be broken. The death of sinners is evil, and those hating the righteous shall do wrong. The Lord will redeem the souls of His servants, and all those hoping on Him shall not do wrong.

Together:

It is truly right to bless you, O God-bearing one, as the ever-blessed and immaculate Mother of our God. More honorable, than the cherubim, and by far more glorious than the seraphim. ever a virgin, you gave birth to God the Word, O true Mother of God, we magnify you. *(bow)*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen .

Lord, have mercy. *(thrice)* Lord bless!

Leader: Through the prayers of the holy Fathers, O Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. *(bow)*

Together: Amen.